

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: NSS SUB-GROUP MEETING OF
AUGUST 1 -- SOVIET PRESENTATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE NSS
LANGUAGE

CTB MESSAGE NO.281

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING OF NSS SUB-GROUP AUGUST 1,
TARASOV (USSR) DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER DELS THE SOVIET
DEL DRAFT OF LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLE OF SEPARATE VERIFI-
CATION AGREEMENT, AND ARTICLE OF TECHNICAL ANNEX,
PERTAINING TO NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS (CTB 282).
TARASOV ALSO ANSWERED PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS OF US AND UK
DELS. HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON SOME
ISSUES MIGHT CHANGE AFTER WE FIND SOLUTIONS TO CERTAIN
ISSUES RAISED BY THE MULTILATERAL TREATY, REFERRING TO
THE PROBLEM OF SPECIFYING A DURATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. AT AUGUST 1 NSS SUBGROUP MEETING, TARASOV STATED THAT
THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS. HE RECALLED THAT THE SOV DEL
HAD THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO AGREE FULLY AS TO
PRINCIPLES BEFORE LOOKING AT DRAFTS, BUT THAT, IN A
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, IT HAD AGREED TO THE US PROPOSAL
TO BEGIN WORKING ON LANGUAGE FOR NSS PROVISIONS. THE

SOV DEL, HE NOTED, RESERVED THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO ASPECTS OF THE TEXT AFTER WE FOUND SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES RAISED BY THE MULTILATERAL TREATY, MENTIONING THE PROBLEM OF DURATION. IN DISTRIBUTING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, TARASOV NOTED THE ABSENCE OF A CLAUSE (LIKE PARA 2 OF THE US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT) RESTRICTING THE USE OF NSS EQUIPMENT TO TREATY VERIFICATION. HE SAID THAT SOV DEL WAS CONSIDERING MAKING THIS CLAUSE A SEPARATE ARTICLE OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT (SO THAT IT WOULD APPLY TO ON-SITE INSPECTION AS WELL). SOV DEL'S TEXT IS BEING SENT SEPTEL (CTB 282).

3. IN RESPONSE TO PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS FROM THE UK AND US DELS, TARASOV CLARIFIED SOME ASPECTS OF THE SOV DEL'S TEXT. HE SAID THAT, UNDER PARA 1 OF THE ARTICLE FOR THE AGREEMENT, STATIONS DESIGNATED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE COULD ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS NSS UNDER THE TRILATERAL EXCHANGE. SUCH STATIONS, ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL NSS, WOULD BE UPGRADED WITH IMPROVED EQUIPMENT DURING THE SECOND STAGE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT DATA EXCHANGE PRIOR TO ORGANIZATION OF THE MECHANISMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE, HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE TO BE SOME TIME FOR ORGANIZATION EVEN OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SYSTEM, BUT HE PROPOSED THAT WE DISCUSS THE TIMING OF THE STAGES AFTER WE HAD AGREED ON THE DURATION OF THE TREATY ITSELF.

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HE ARGUED THAT THE US PROPOSAL OF MAY 8 SUGGESTED THAT VERIFICATION WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 12 MONTHS AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE, AND HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT WE COULD THEREFORE FIND COMMON GROUND ON THE ISSUE OF TIMING.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE PHRASE "BY AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES" IN PARA 3(B) OF THE AGREEMENT ARTICLE, TARASOV WAS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR, BUT SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT THIS LANGUAGE PERTAINED TO PROCEDURES FOR RECORDING AND TRANSMITTING DATA, AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO MODIFY THE BASIC OBLIGATION TO RECORD DATA CONTINUOUSLY AND TRANSMIT IT TO THE PARTIES. HE SAID THAT THE DETAILS OF AGREEMENT UNDER PARAS 3(B), 4 AND 5 WOULD BE REACHED IN THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE "STATION AREA" REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE I OF THE ANNEX, HE SAID THAT THE SIZE OF THE AREA MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FOR EACH LOCATION -- THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE PARTICULAR LOCATION. JOHNSON

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